

THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: THE STORIES OF KENTUCKY

WHAT'S OUR STORY?

WE SHOW THE PEOPLE WHO PAID TO HAVE US PAINTED.

Dennis and Diademia Doram, prosperous business and land owners in Danville, Kentucky, paid to have their portraits painted in 1839. Unlike most other wealthy Kentuckians who did the same, the Dorams attained the American dream against all odds. Dennis was born into slavery on the estate of Thomas Barbee in Danville and was the grandson of his master. Barbee's 1797 will freed Dennis' mother and gave her children their freedom when they reached adulthood. It also provided for the boys' education. Diademia was the child of a free black man who purchased his daughter's and wife's freedom in 1814 and moved them from St. Louis to Kentucky.

Access these objects (2000.29.1-2) and more than 100,000 others through the Kentucky Historical Society's [online object catalog](#) and learn the stories of Kentucky.



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